

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CLERIDES' TERM AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRIOT HOUSE EXPIRES,
UNIFIED PARTY WALKS OUT OF HOUSE

REF: NICOSIA 1985 DTG 170657Z JUL 76)

1. BECAUSE OF EARLIER FAILURES TO ELECT NEW PRESIDENT OF CYPRIOT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESIDE OVER HOUSE'S EXTENSION
THROUGH SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS, GLAFCOS CLERIDES, PRESIDENT OF OLD
HOUSE, WAS PRESENT JULY 16 BUT NOT PRESIDING. HIS TERM AS
PRESIDENT ENDED WITH EXPIRATION OF OLD HOUSE, I.E., JULY 15.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PROCEDURE, OLDEST MEMBER OF

HOUSE, YANGOS POTAMITIS, WAS ACTING PRESIDENT. FIRST BUSINESS WAS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT. GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR AND UNIFIED PARTY DEPUTY TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS WAS NOMINATED BUT HIS NAME WAS CHALLENGED BECAUSE HE WAS ABSENT AND HAD NOT INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT POSITION. POTAMITIS THEN RULED THAT HOUSE ELECTION WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 22 TO DETERMINE PAPADOPOULOS' ATTITUDE.

2. FOLLOWING DEFERRAL OF VOTE, SPEECHES WERE MADE BY COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER ZIARTIDES, COMMUNIST GENERAL SECRETARY PAPAIOANNOU AND EDEK (PSEUDO-SOCIALIST) LEADER LYSSARIDES ATTACKING CLERIDES FOR SO-CALLED SECRET AGREEMENT WITH TURKISH SIDE. INDEPENDENT DEPUTY CHRISTOPHIDES THEN MADE ACCUSATION THAT UNIFIED PARTY DEPUTY AND CLOSE CONFIDENT OF CLERIDES, LEANDROS ZACHARIADES, HAD SOLICITED ELECTION FUNDS FROM WESTERN EMBASSIES, FRG IN PARTICULAR, AND HAD ATTACKED MAKARIOS. ZACHARIADES LABELED THESE ACCUSATIONS LIES AND IN UPROAR THAT FOLLOWED CLERIDES, ZACHARIADES AND ALL UNIFIED PARTY DEPUTIES WALKED OUT OF HOUSE ACCOMPANIED BY JEERS OF GALLERY PACKED WITH ANTI-CLERIDES PEOPLE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HOUSE RECESSED.

3. ACCORDING NEWSPAPER REPORTS JULY 19, ZACHARIADES INDICATED CLERIDES HIMSELF WILL DECIDE WHETHER UNIFIED PARTY WILL BE ABSENT FROM FUTURE HOUSE MEETINGS OR WALKOUT WAS ONLY FOR JUPY 16 SESSION. ACCORDING TO PRO-MAKARIOS DEMOKRATIKI TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS RETURNED TO CYPRUS JULY 18 AND WILL BE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND PARTY LEADERS JULY 19 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF ELECTION OF HOUSE PRESIDENT.

4. JULY 18 PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI EDITORIALY DEPLORED GROWING PARTISAN STRIFE AND EVENTS IN HOUSE, PLACED BLAME ON ALL POLITICAL LEADERS FOR ALLOWING SITUATION TO GET OUT OF HAND AND WARNED READERS NOW IS NOT TIME FOR DEMAGOGY; COMMUNIST HARAVGHI SAW HOUSE SESSION AS CRUSHING DEFEAT FOR CLERIDES' CAMP WHICH STARTED MUD-SLINGING CAMPAIGN IN FIRST PLACE WITH ATTACKS ON COMMUNIST DEPUTIES. JULY 19 DEMOKRATIKI WROTE THAT SCANDAL OF ZACHARIADES' BEGGING FUNDS AND USING ABUSIVE LANGUAGE ABOUT MAKARIOS IN FOREIGN EMBASSIES SHOULD ALERT CYPRIOT PEOPLE TO CONSPIRATORIAL MENTALITY STILL PREVAILING UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SOME CIRCLES. KAPER ACCUSED CLERIDES OF USING WALKOUT TO AVOID ANSWERING CHARGES OF CONCEALING "SECRET AGREEMENT" FROM MAKARIOS, HOPED HE WOULD NOT BE SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE HE CAN PERMANENTLY DISMISS THIS INEXORABLE ISSUE; COMMUNIST DEMOKRATIA CRITICISED CLERIDES FOR WALKING OUT BEFORE ACTING PRESIDENT EVEN HAD CHANCE TO DEAL WITH QUESTION IN PROPER FASHION, SUGGESTED UNIFIED PARTY WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ADVISED TO HAVE ASKED HOUSE TO DEBATE CHARGES AGAINST ZACHARIADES

RATHER THAN TO DEMAND THEY BE RETRACTED.
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